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Letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to attach herewith the statement issued on 30 June 2017 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of the Sudan, in which it welcomes the reduction of the military and police components of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur decided by the Security Council in its resolution 2363 (2017), issued on 29 June 2017 (see annex).

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Omer Dahab Fadl **Mohamed**
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 5 July 2017 from the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

[Original: Arabic]

Press statement

Pursuant to resolution 2363 (2017) of 29 June 2017, the Security Council decided that the military and police components of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) will be reduced over the next six months to consist of 11,395 military personnel and 2,888 police personnel. This first phase of reductions will be followed by a second phase, which will begin on 1 February 2018. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs welcomes this direct, practical step, which reflects the Security Council's assessment that Darfur has turned the page on conflict and has moved as a whole towards peace, development and reconstruction. Over the coming period, the Government of the Sudan will continue engaging positively, consulting and coordinating with the United Nations and the African Union in the context of the joint working group on the exit strategy of UNAMID with a view to ensuring a smooth and phased withdrawal. The Ministry welcomes the fact that the resolution clearly states that the situation in the five states of Darfur is stable, recognizes that the Sudanese army and police forces are fully deployed, and expresses concern at the presence of armed rebel groups outside the Sudan. The Government of the Sudan is committed to continued cooperation, providing all necessary assistance to UNAMID in finalizing its work, and ensuring that the joint mechanism on administrative and logistical issues facing UNAMID meets more frequently over the forthcoming period in order to promptly fulfil the requirements of the coming phase.

The Ministry takes this opportunity to renew its call on the rebel groups located outside the country to reject violence and immediately join the political process and reconstruction. The compromise document adopted by the national dialogue conference grants the groups the necessary assurances to join without preconditions, whenever they hear the voice of reason and choose the path of dialogue in the context of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and the road map signed by the rebel groups on 8 August 2016. The Ministry appreciates the efforts made by the Chair of the African Union High-level Implementation Panel, Thabo Mbeki, the Joint Special Representative of the United Nations and the African Union in Darfur, Kingsley Mamabolo, and all international and regional partners.

The Ministry commends the Security Council and donor parties for urging support for the Darfur Development Strategy. It calls on the community of donors and relevant United Nations funds and agencies to redouble their support for the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to promote recovery, reconstruction and sustainable development; meet the needs of displaced persons and those people who have returned voluntarily to their original areas in order to resume their normal activities; and support disarmament programmes and endeavours to foster a lasting peace.

The spokesperson of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs
30 June 2017